

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.Rejection of claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ledger et al. (5,515,167):

5 **Claim 1:**

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Specifically, the limitation "a bonding layer positioned on a top surface of the wafer carrier for bonding the wafer and the transparent base together" recited in original claim 5 has been added to claim 1. No new matter is entered.

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Regarding US5,515,167, Ledger et al. teaches an electrostatic chuck including an transparent chuck 24 having a membrane 34 disposed on the transparent chuck 24 and a conducting film 32 disposed on the membrane 34. According to Ledger teaching (Figs.3 and 4), a voltage difference exists between the wafer 14 and the
15 conducting fim 32 or within the conducting film 32, and the wafer 14 is attracted to the membrane 34 by elecstatic force. Differing from Ledger's teaching, the wafer is adhered to the transparent base with a bonding layer in accordance with the amended claim 1 of the present application. In the Office action, the Examiner asserts that using a bonding layer is known to the art and would have been obvious to one ordinary
20 skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the chuck of Ledger by including a bonding layer. The applicant disagrees and explains as follows.

In Ledger's teaching, he teaches attracting the wafer to the chuck by electrostatic force. Ledger fails to teach or suggest any use of bonding layer to fix wafer on the
25 chuck. In addition, the object of Ledger's teaching is to monitor the residual air space between the wafer and chuck by optical systems, and this mechanism does not allow use of a bonding layer. Therefore, the applicant believes it would not have been obvious to those skilled in the art to incorporate the bonding layer into Ledger's chuck, and the amended claim 1 should be allowed. Reconsideration of claim 1 is politely
30 requested.

Claim 2-3 and 7:

Claims 2-3 and 7 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 2-3 and 7 is therefore requested.

- 5 **2.Rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Ledger et al. in view of Suzuki et al. (US 2003/0029565):**

Claim 4:

10 Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claim 4 is therefore requested.

- 3.Rejection of claims 5, 6, 12-14, 16-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledger et al. in view of Strasbaugh et al. (US 2003/0134578):**

15 Claim 5:

Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Claim 6:

20 Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claim 6 is therefore requested.

Claim 12:

25 Regarding US5,515,167, Ledger et al. teaches an electrostatic chuck including an transparent chuck 24 having a membrane 34 disposed on the transparent chuck 24 and a conducting film 32 disposed on the membrane 34. According to Ledger teaching (Figs.3 and 4), a voltage difference exists between the wafer 14 and the conducting film 32 or within the conducting film 32, and the wafer 14 is attracted to the membrane 34 by elecstatic force. Differing from Ledger's teaching, the wafer is adhered to the transparent base with a bonding layer in accordance with claim 12 of
30 the present application. In the Office action, the Examiner asserts that using a bonding layer is known to the art and would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the chuck of Ledger by including a

bonding layer. The applicant disagrees and explains as follows.

In Ledger's teaching, he teaches attracting the wafer to the chuck by electrostatic force. Ledger fails to teach or suggest any use of bonding layer to fix wafer on the
5 chuck. In addition, the object of Ledger's teaching is to monitor the residual air space
between the wafer and chuck by optical systems, and this mechanism does not allow
use of a bonding layer. Therefore, the applicant believes it would not have been
obvious to those skilled in the art to incorporate the bonding layer into Ledger's chuck,
and claim 12 should be allowed. Reconsideration of claim 12 is politely requested.

10 Claims 13-14, 16-18 and 21:

Claims 13-14, 16-18 and 21 are dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if
claim 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 13-14, 16-18 and 21 is
therefore requested.

15 **4.Rejection of claims 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over Ledger et al.:**

Claims 8, 10 and 11:

20 Claims 8, 10 and 11 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1
is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 8, 10 and 11 is therefore requested.

**5.Rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledger
et al. in view of Bollen et al. (US 4,766,515):**

25 Claim 9:

Claim 9 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found
allowable. Reconsideration of claim 9 is therefore requested.

30 **6.Rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledger
et al. in view of Strasbaugh et al. and further in view of Suzuki et al.:**

Claim 15:

Claim 15 is dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if claim 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claim 15 is therefore requested.

- 5 **7.Rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledger et al. in view of Strasbaugh et al. and further in view of Bollen et al.:**

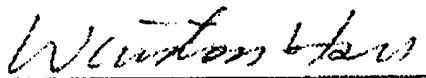
Claims 19-20:

- 10 Claims 19-20 are dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if claim 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 19-20 is therefore requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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- 25 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)